

Message Text

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56

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /046 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7559

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 7517

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US, BR

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN REACTION TO PANMUNJON INCIDENT

REF: STATE 211862

1. SUMMARY: BRAZILAIN REACTIONS TO PANMUNJON INCIDENT HAVE CONSISTED OF HEAVY AND PROMIENT STRAIGHT WIRE-SERVICE PRESS PLAY WITH MIXED EDITORILA REACTION, OFFICIAL GOB SILENCE, AND OCCASIONAL PRIVATE EXPRESSIONS OF SORROW AND MUTED SURPRISE THAT US CONTINUES TO SUFFER NORTH KOREAN VIOLATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS REACTION TO PANMUNJON HAS BEEN HEAVY, FEATURING STRAIGHT WORE SERVICE PRESS PLAY. EDITORIALY, REACTION HAS BEEN MIXED. DIARIO POPULAR (SAO PAULO) OPINED THA NORTH KOREA HAS STRUCK AT A FAVORABLE TIME TO ALTER THE KOREAN SITUATION BECAUSE THE US PUBLIC WOULD VIOLENTLY REACT AGAINST DEEPER INVOLVEMENT OF US ARMED FORCES, PARTICULARLY IN FOR, EAST, AND PRESIDENT FORD, SEEKONG RE-ELECTION, WILL DO ANYTHING TO AVOID LOSING POPULARITY. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, PRESITIGIOUS NATIONAL DAILY, SUGGESTS THAT KIM IL SUNG BELIEVES OMENT HAS ARRIVED TO ACHIEVE HIS AMBITION TO REUNIFY KOREA SINCE AMERICAN DIPLOMAY IS MORE PARALYZED DURING ELECTORAL COMPAIGNS. HOWEVER, ESTADO GOES ON TO NOTE THAT KIM MAY BE WRONG SINCE US CLIMATE HAS CHANGED AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION WILL NOT ACCEPT ANOTHER DEFEAT.

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3. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL GOB COMMENT ON THE AUGUST PNMUNJON INCIDENT. EMBASSY CONTACTS IN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCH HAVE CAUTIOUSLY AVOIDED THE TOPIC. CONTACTS IN MILITARY HAVE COMMENTED PRIVATELY AND IN BRIEF ON THE INCIDENT, IN ONE CASE TO EXPRESS SORROW FOR THE DEATHS OF US MILITARY OFFICERS, IN ANOTHER CASE TO NOTE THAT US HAD "PUT UP WITH A LOT" FROM THE NORTH KOREANS.

4. COMMENT: GOB SILENCE REFLECTS LACK OF BRAZILIAN INTEREST IN OR KNOWLEDGE OF AREA REMOTE FROM BRAZIL'S CONCERN. WITH KOREAN ISSUE COMING UP AT UNGA AND GOB BEING PRESSURED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO ANTAGONISTIC RESOLUTIONS, NORMAL TENDENCY TO STAY ALOOF FROM KOREAN ISSUE IS REINFORCED.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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